[Copy, customize and paste on your letterhead and email your support. We really appreciate your support!]

[Cut and paste the following email addressed into your email to send your letters]:

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February 2, 2023

Honorable Chair Joshua Klumb

Senate Transportation Subcommittee

500 East Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

RE: SB148 Support

Honorable Chairman Klumb and members of the Senate Transportation Subcommittee,

We are writing in support of SB148, an infrastructure bill to assist in the expansion of the Rapid City Regional Airport Airline Terminal.

As you may not be aware, the Rapid City Regional Airport serves much of western South Dakota and accounts for over 35 percent of all passengers flown in and out of South Dakota. Tourism is a major economic driver for our state and tourist who fly into a city/state tend to spend more, on average, than those who drive.

The 2020 South Dakota Economic Impact study indicated that SD airports create over 8,800 jobs and generates over $900 million to the state’s economy and Rapid City alone contributes over $283 million on an annual basis. When it comes to airport projects, the State of South Dakota Aeronautics contribute of approximately $1 million combined to all the airport projects in the state.

Rapid City Regional Airport has seen considerable growth in air service in recent years and portions of the terminal are experiencing capacity related issues that will limit growth during the critical tourism season.

[Please add a paragraph as to why this is important to you and/or your business.]

The project at the Rapid City Regional Airport is requesting federal funding at a rate of approximately 60 percent federal, so a project of this magnitude will have a positive economic development impact on the region and state, from the national investment.

We request that you support SB148.